



Pro bono publico

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NSP Class 56 Graduates

With plenty of pomp and circumstance, members of the 56th Basic Recruit Class of the Nebraska State Patrol received their badge of office on Friday, May 1, at a graduation ceremony at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union. Remarks were provided by Governor Pete Ricketts, Attorney General Doug Peterson, and Nebraska State Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Bradley Rice. The Oath of Office was administered by Secretary of State John Gale.

It was a proud occasion for the class of 37 trooper recruits, the largest in recent memory, who completed 23 weeks of training at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island. Their instruction included 1187 hours and 70 exams, including both written and practical.

Four recruits were badged by their fathers. Recruit Michael Knuth #139 was badged by his father Trooper Lawney Knuth, Recruit Michael Rice was badged by his father Col. Bradley Rice, Recruit Brienne Splittgerber was badged by her father, retired Sgt. Morry Abshier, and Recruit Jesse Tobey was badged by his father, Sgt. Mike Tobey.

Recruit Jeremy Wilhelm received the Superintendent's Leadership Award, while the D.R. Shearer Marksmanship Award was given to Recruit Michael Knuth. Recruit Jesse Tobey received the O.H. Witt Academic Achievement Award, and the R. J. Buchholz Physical Fitness Award was presented to Recruit Jacob Arnold.



Nebraska State Patrol Class 56



NSP Informer Staff

Editor

Mike Meyer

Contributors

Deb Collins

Christie Van Andel

Chris Peters

Field Representatives

Troop A: Lt. Kevin Bridges

Troop B: Trp. Bill Price

Troop C: Mary Jones

Troop D: Deborah Hansen

Troop E: Lt. Monica Bartling

HQ Troop: Lt. Ken Dahlke

Carrier Enf: Lt. Jon Beckstead

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Colonel's Corner

Looking to the Future

Let me begin by saying I am honored to be back, and would like to thank Governor Ricketts for giving me the opportunity to lead Nebraska's premier law enforcement agency. Since my appointment as Superintendent in March, I have made it a priority to get out to each of our six Troop Areas. These visits have allowed me to spend time with many of you. During our talks I have been able to share my vision for the agency, answer your questions, and listen to your perspectives and ideas. I want to thank everyone for taking the time out of their very busy schedules to accommodate my visits. Your input is valuable, important and welcomed.



Col. Brad Rice

Since becoming Colonel I have had the extreme pleasure of badging the 37 new troopers of Class 56. A lot of hard work and long hours went into their training and I would like to recognize the Training Academy Staff and all of our subject matter experts for their excellent work in preparing these new troopers for the duties and responsibilities they now face.

I would also call on our entire agency personnel to welcome these new troopers into your areas. There is no substitute for the wisdom acquired through experience. I encourage you to continue to mentor our new troopers, sharing with them the knowledge and expertise you've gain through your years with the agency. I look forward to getting back out to the Troop Areas and keeping in touch with all of the great folks, both sworn and civilian, who I have the privilege to serve with.

In closing, we are entering the summer travel season - an extremely busy time for all of us. As we work to keep our roadways and communities safe, please also take the time to enjoy your family and friends.



Class 56 graduation

Troopers Honored at Law Enforcement Conference

More than 300 local, state, and federal law enforcement officials and prosecutors attended the 28th annual Nebraska Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) Criminal Justice and County Attorney's Conference in Kearney in May. The conference provides training on topics impacting the criminal justice system. The annual conference is hosted by the United States Attorney's Office, Nebraska County Attorneys Association and the Nebraska Sheriffs Association.

Several Nebraska State Patrol troopers were recognized at this year's event. Troop E-Scottsbluff Sgt. Monty Lovelace was presented the State Criminal Justice Professional of the Year award for his Internet Crimes against Children work.

Sgt. Jim Bills of Columbus, Trp. Mike Mallory of Waverly, and Trp. Tyler Kroenke of Wahoo, received the Award for Valor. The award honors the officers for their actions during a June 2014 incident with an armed suspect.

The awards were presented to the troopers by Nebraska U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg.



Sgt. Monty Lovelace with Nebraska U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg.



L-R, Nebraska U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg. Sgt. Jim Bills, Trp. Mike Mallory, and Trp. Tyler Kroenke.

Gretna Group Honors Troopers

Troop A-Omaha Investigator Nicholas Jaworski, and Lt. Colonel Thomas Schwarten were honored in May by the Gretna Optimist Club during their annual Respect for Law Enforcement program. Inv. Jaworski was recognized for his work on a Sarpy County child porn case. Lt. Col. Schwarten was honored for his work and commitment in the Gretna area when he was Troop A Commander



L-R, Gretna Optimist Club President Andrew Consbruck, Inv. Nick Jaworski, and Lt. Col. Tom Schwarten.

Bartling Named Woman of Year

The Panhandle Business and Professional Women recognized State Patrol Lt. Monica Bartling as its Woman of the Year at an awards luncheon in Scottsbluff in April. Bartling was honored for exceptional leadership, integrity, and achievements in her community



Awards Chairperson Marci Meyer (left) presents award to Lt. Monica Bartling (Photo courtesy of the Gering Citizen)

MADD Awards Presented

The 16th annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Outstanding Law Enforcement Awards & Recognition Ceremony was held in Lincoln Tuesday, May 19. The event recognized law enforcement officers who work to ensure Nebraska roadways are kept safe from drinking and drugged drivers. Several Nebraska State Patrol troopers were honored for their commitment to keeping Nebraska communities and roads safe.

Receiving awards for their DUI enforcement efforts: From Trp A: Trp. Eric Kauffman and Trp. Jason Morris. Trp B: Trp. Nicholas Bonney, Trp. Matthew Schmit, Trp. Bryan Wiggins, Sgt. Benjamin Brakenhoff, and Trp. Tim Doggett. Trp D: Trp. Tyler Schmidt, Trp. Bryan Walter, and Trp. Justin Buhlke. Trp. E: Trp. Michael Cerny, Trp. Chris Baer, Trp. Troy Elliott, Trp. Courtney Horak, Trp. Manny Jimenez, Sgt. Kevin Krzyzanowski, Trp. Cody Potthast. HQ Trp: Trp. Kaleb Bruggeman, Trp. Daniel Clancy, Trp. Denny Frey, Sgt. Michael Grummert, Trp. John Lukesh, and Trp. William Rowell.



Trp. Tim Doggett & Carl McDonald, MADD National Law Enforcement Initiatives Mgr.



MADD awards ceremony

Bonney Honored in Columbus

Trooper Nick Bonney was given the Officer of the Year award at the Columbus Optimist Club annual awards luncheon May 8 in Columbus. Bonney was nominated for the award by NSP Sgt. Jim Bills, who said Bonney shows enthusiasm for his profession by his work ethic, and in the way he interacts with citizens.



Columbus Optimist President, Betty Earley presents a Respect for Law Certificate to Trooper Nick Bonney.

Trp. Hayes Receives Award

In April, the North Platte Chapter of the Eagles presented Awards for Excellence to members of the State Patrol, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and the North Platte Police Department. Trooper Ryan Hayes was the 2015 State Patrol recipient.



Trp. Ryan Hayes with wife Andrea, daughter Ashlyn, and son Logan.



Law Enforcement Expo Held

Young and old alike had the chance to learn about the services provided, and career opportunities available, at the first-ever Nebraska State Patrol Law Enforcement Expo Saturday, April 25, in Lincoln.

The Expo, held at Southeast Community, provided information and demonstrations from a variety of divisions, including Aviation Support, Police Service Dog, Field and Investigative Services Divisions, and the State Patrol Training Academy.



Remembering the fallen.....

As part of National Police Week, May 10-16, a ceremony commemorating the lives of all Nebraska officers who have died, or were killed in the line of duty, was held Monday, May 11, at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial in Grand Island. Representatives from law enforcement agencies across the state, including the Nebraska State Patrol, attended.



Remembering....(cont.)

Nebraska State Patrol Troopers, along with family members of the fallen officers, gathered in cemeteries across the state to honor and remember the eleven Nebraska State Patrol Troopers who have given their lives in the line of duty. Memorial wreaths provided by the State Troopers Association of Nebraska were placed at each grave. Those remembered were:

*Trooper Loyal Zink, badge #43
Trooper John Meistrell, badge #67
Trooper Vernon Rolfs, badge #129
Trooper Marvin Hansen, badge #98
Trooper Duane Nichols, badge #133
Trooper Raymond Koerber, badge #108
Trooper George Amos, Jr. badge #9
Trooper Michael Farber, badge #427
Trooper Robert Chab, badge #221
Trooper Donald Matejka, badge #192
Trooper Mark Wagner, badge #168*





Blue Mass Held in Lincoln

As part of National Police Week, a Blue Mass was held Friday, May 15, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lincoln. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, the Blue Mass honors the dedication and sacrifices made by active duty and retired men and women in law enforcement, fire, and rescue services.



Troop Area News

Troopers and civilians across the state have been busy with a variety of activities!

State Headquarters



Thanks to all who participated in the 2015 Food Bank of Lincoln Food Drive. Special recognition goes to the employees of CID/NIAC who organized three teams, filled two full barrels with food, and donated \$1352.



Tim Young of the Legal Division, and his step-daughter, Michaela Hendricks, ran the half-marathon for the first time in Lincoln on May 3. Michaela, a student at Creighton University, asked Tim to run with her as a Christmas present. They now have their sights set on the Omaha marathon in September!



A display featuring information about the Criminal Identification Division (CID), and the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), was featured at the Nebraska Chapter of the International Association for Identification (IAI) Annual Conference at Mahoney State Park in April. Several members of the NSP AFIS team attended the educational event and provided information to attendees.



Something you don't often see – this print has a delta (upper right of the fingerprint image) in an unusual place. NSP Fingerprint Technician Gerri Green entered it in the Unusual Fingerprint Contest at the annual MorphoTrak User's Conference in Costa Mesa, CA. in May. Gerri's submission was chosen as the winner.

HQ Troop



HQ Troop Commander Lance Rogers presents Trp. Jason Jones with the NSP Military Service Recognition Award. Trp. Jones retired after serving 18 years with the Nebraska Air Guard.



Troopers Charlie Cook and John Esser staged a mock crash at Falls City High School in May. 260 students and 40 adults attended.



Trp. Charlie Cook and Trp. Marcus Warnke presented driving safety information to Peru State College students in April. Thirty students tried the driving simulator, and 280 students watched, listened, and visited about driving safety.



Troop A



In April, Trp. James Estwick and his son 14-year old son DaShawn, painted a Buckle Up logo on the Troop A Hdq. parking lot. Troopers plan to contact area high schools, offering to paint the logo on their school parking lot exits as a reminder to buckle up.

Troop B

Congratulations to Trooper Mitch Blum and wife, Laura, on the April 17 birth of a son, Elijah Matthew.

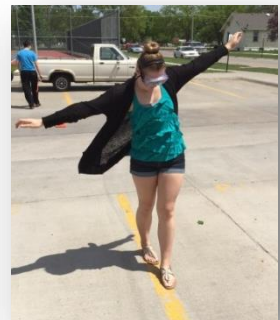
Troop B Troopers kept very busy with a wide variety of safety presentations throughout the Troop Area.



Ponca Tribe students learn about distracted driving by trying the Driving Simulator



In May, Troopers Bill Price, Andy Mohr, and Lt. Jim Stover did rollover demos for Norfolk 5th and 6th grade students.



Troop B Troopers held an after school safety awareness event for Norfolk High School students in May.

4th graders get the seat belt safety message from Trp. Bill Price at Boone Co. Farm Safety Days.



Troop C

Congratulations to Sgt. Brent Bockstadter and his wife Sara, on the May 12 birth of a girl, Moriah Jane.

A new Central Nebraska Motorist Assist vehicle is in service. Instead of a minivan, a four-wheel drive pickup is now being used.

On May 18, Grand Island Engleman Elementary School 5th graders assisted Lt. Bill Keeling, Lt. Jeromy McCoy, Trp. Wendy Brehm, and Inv. Jason Bauer with painting "Buckle Up" reminders at the exits to the school.



Troop D

Deb Hansen, Troop D Traffic Services secretary, was recognized at a retirement coffee in May. During her 46 year career with NSP, Deb served under nine Governors, thirteen Colonels, and five Troop Area Commanders.



Col. Brad Rice presents Deb Hansen with the Distinguished Service Award.



In May, Holdrege Troopers joined Phelps Memorial Health Center EMS personnel to paint Buckle Up stencils at each exit on its main campus.



In June, Troop D Investigative Services Criminal Sergeant Clint Elwood received his Sergeant badge. With Clint is wife, Amy, daughter, Brooklyn, and son, Chance.



Trooper Matt Alm received the Lifesaver Award from Troop D Commander Lynn Williams, for his efforts during a January incident involving a suicidal individual.



Angie Buesing, center, Troop D ISO Staff Assistant, was one of 56 students inducted into Alpha Beta Theta honor society at North Platte Community College in April.

Troop E

Trp. Kyle Kuebler married Cassandra Altmaier on May 30.

On May 15, a retirement ceremony was held in Scottsbluff for Communications Specialist Tom Venable, who served the agency and state for 42 years.



Major Kyle Otte presents Tom Venable with the Distinguished Service Award.



On May 16, Troop E Troopers participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.



Communications Specialist Betsy Mitchell visits with Hemingford 3rd graders during an April field trip to the Troop E office.

Carrier Enforcement

Trp. Matt Wamsley and his wife Cheris are proud parents of a daughter, Avery Marie, born June 6.

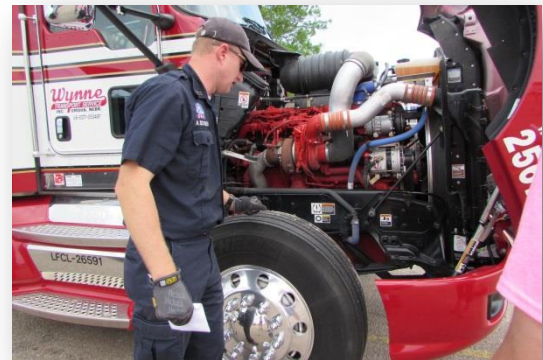
Trooper Aaron Schoen of Nebraska City took first place at the Nebraska Inspector Championships in June in Grand Island. Trooper Schoen will represent Nebraska in the North American Inspector Championships (NAIC) in St. Louis, MO. in August.



NSP participants at the 2015 Nebraska Inspector Championships, L-R Troopers John Hadaway, Chris Tippery, Aaron Schoen, and Kris Hunzeker.



Trp. Hadaway inspects under a truck at the Nebraska Inspector Championships.



Trp. Schoen performs a Level 1 inspection during the competition.

Personnel Actions March-2015

New Hires

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Eff. Date</i>
Hobza	Troy	IT Supervisor	SHQ	3/9/2015
Brewer	Amanda	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	3/9/2015
Stokes	Clayton	Electronic Tech/Sr	Radio Engineering	3/9/2015
Blackford	Cody	Communications Specialist	HDQ Troop - Lincoln	3/11/2015
Flint	April	Staff Assistant II - CE	CE - Lincoln	3/23/2015
Rice	Brad	Colonel	SHQ	3/23/2015

Resignations

Todd	Helgren	Records Analysis Supervisor	CID	3/3/2015
Tammie	Kush-Thomas	Communications Specialist	Troop A - Omaha	3/28/2015

Transfers

Okamoto	Bruce	Trooper - CE - York	Trooper - TS - York	3/4/2015
Goltz	Gregory	Trooper - TS - Aurora	Trooper - TS - York	3/4/2015
Rump	Brady	Trooper - TS - Omaha	Trooper - TS - Fremont	3/5/2015
Darmento	Nathan	Trooper - TS - Fremont	Trooper - CE - Fremont	3/10/2015
Janssen	Eric	Trooper - TS - Broken Bow	Trooper - TS - Beatrice	3/12/2015
Trantham	Neal	Trooper - TS - Beatrice	Investigator - IS - Beatrice	3/15/2015

Promotions

Idigima	Anna	Security Guard	Security Comm Shift Supv	3/9/2015
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April-2015

New Hires

Mohamed	Liban	Security Guard	Capitol Security	4/6/2015
Weakley	Leah	Staff Assistant I	Troop A - Omaha	4/13/2015

Resignations

Genier	Lauren	Staff Assistant	Troop A - Omaha	4/2/2015
Jones	Kevin	Security Guard	Capitol Security	4/24/2015
Alm	Matthew	Trooper - TS	Troop D - Lexington	4/30/2015

Transfers

Phaby	Chad	Investigator - IS - Lexington	Investigator - Drug - Lexington	4/1/2015
Bauer	Jason	Trooper - TS - Grand Island	Investigator - IS - Grand Island	4/6/2015
Kosiba	Ron	Trooper - PSD - Columbus	Investigator - IS - Columbus	4/13/2015
Wilson	Daniel	Lieutenant - TS - Norfolk	Lieutenant - IS - Norfolk	4/17/2015
Belgum	Shane	Trooper - TS - North Platte	Investigator - Liquor - N Platte	4/20/2015

Promotions

Scriven	April	Comm Spec Supervisor - HDQ	Crime Analyst - DV/SA	4/6/2015
Kaufman	Sara	CID Records Tech	Communications Specialist	4/6/2015
Blunt	Jacob	Comm Specialist - HAD	Comm Spec Supervisor - HDQ	4/29/2015

May-2015

New Hires

Frank	Michelle	Acctg. Clerk II	Acctg - SHQ - Lincoln	5/18/2015
Davis	Debra	Lab Tech II	Crime Lab - Lincoln	5/18/2015

Resignations

Gonzales	Nicholas	Trooper - CE	Nebraska City	5/11/2015
Sillman	Ryan	Trooper - CE	Hebron	5/13/2015
Grates	Laura	Staff Asst I	CID - Lincoln	5/19/2015

Retirements

Hansen	Deborah	Staff Asst. I	Trp D - North Pla	5/8/2015
Wiegert	Dale	Communications Specialist	Trp C - Grand Island	5/9/2015
Venable	Thomas	Comm Specialist Supervisor	Trp E - Scottsbluff	5/15/2015

Transfers

Fynbu	Joey	Trooper - CE - Lincoln	Investigator - CE - Lincoln	5/1/2015
Dunton	Jeffrey	Trooper - CE - Sidney	Trooper - Exec Protection	5/7/2015
Kermoad	Derek	Trooper - CE - Waverly	Trooper - CE - Grand Island	5/18/2015
Zost	Clint	Trooper - CE - NE City	Trooper - TS - Auburn	5/24/2015
Johnson (Rice)	Denise	Records Analysis Supv. - CID	Fed Aid Admin II - SHQ	5/26/2015
Peters	Wesley	Trooper - TS - Norfolk	Trooper - TS - Geneva	5/26/2015
Wilkie	Brandon	Trooper - TS - West Point	Trooper - PSD - Lincoln	5/29/2015

Promotions

Arnold	Jacob	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Omaha	5/1/2015
Brase	Justin	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Superior	5/1/2015
Buhlke	Brandon	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Scottsbluff	5/1/2015
Calvin	Sarah	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - North Platte	5/1/2015
Carey	Courtney	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - South Sioux	5/1/2015

Dillinger	Joshua	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Scottsbluff	5/1/2015
Dimitroff	Henry	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Waverly	5/1/2015
Donner	Austin	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Waverly	5/1/2015
Eymann	Nathan	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Omaha	5/1/2015
Farmer	Brian	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Omaha	5/1/2015
Ferguson	Justin	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - David City	5/1/2015
Flohr	David	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Hebron	5/1/2015
Gonzalez	Nicholas	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Nebraska City	5/1/2015
Gooch	Quin	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Blair/Fremont	5/1/2015
Gremm	Curtis	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Omaha	5/1/2015
Hardin	John	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Aurora	5/1/2015
Knuth	Michael	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Broken Bow	5/1/2015
Lingren	Bryce	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Waverly	5/1/2015
Maahs	Taylor	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Waverly	5/1/2015
Macnab	Tyler	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Omaha	5/1/2015
Malone	Brian	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - South Sioux	5/1/2015
McAcy	Kyle	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - North Platte	5/1/2015
McGuane	Christopher	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - North Platte	5/1/2015
Nutsch	Dustin	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Hartington	5/1/2015
Oliver	Daniel	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Lexington	5/1/2015
Pfeifer	Jesse	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Norfolk	5/1/2015
Rice	Michael	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Beatrice	5/1/2015
Roberts	James	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Lexington	5/1/2015
Rose	Zechariah	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Beatrice	5/1/2015
Schmidt	Zachary	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Goth/Lex/Cozad	5/1/2015
Sillman	Ryan	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Hebron	5/1/2015
Singh	Dhankumar	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - North Platte	5/1/2015
Smith	Jerry	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Scottsbluff	5/1/2015
Splittgerber	Brienne	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Kearney	5/1/2015
Tobey	Jesse	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - West Point	5/1/2015
Wilhelm	Jeremy	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - TS - Omaha	5/1/2015
Wright	Adam	Officer Candidate - TA	Trooper - CE - Nebraska City	5/1/2015
Sutter	Matthew	Trooper - PSD - Lincoln	Sergeant - Exec Protection	5/12/2015
Mitchell	Betsy	Comm Spec - Troop E	Comm Spec Supv. - Scottsbluff	5/21/2015

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